

Formula I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

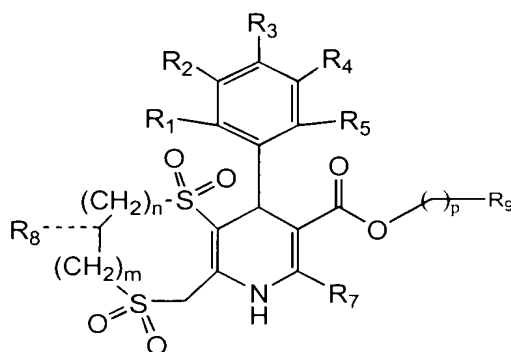
- (a) R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, halogen, cyano, NO_2 , alkyl, C_{1-8} alkoxy, C_{1-8} alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} carboalkoxy, C_{1-8} alkylthio, difluoromethoxy, difluoromethylthio, trifluoromethyl, and oxadiazole (formed by R_1 and R_2);
- (b) R_6 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-5} straight or branched alkyl, aryl, 3-piperidyl, N-substituted 3-piperidyl, N-substituted 2-pyrrolidinyl methylene, and substituted alkyl, wherein

said N-substituted 3-piperidyl and said N-substituted 2-pyrrolidinyl methylene may be substituted with C_{1-8} straight or branched chain alkyl or benzyl, and said substituted alkyl may be substituted with C_{1-8} alkoxy, C_{2-8} alkanoyloxy, phenylacetyloxy, benzoyloxy, hydroxy, halogen, p-tosyloxy, mesyloxy, amino, carboalkoxy or $\text{NR}'\text{R}''$, wherein

- (i) R' and R'' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8} straight or branched alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and phenethyl, or (ii) R' and R'' together form a heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of piperidino, pyrrolidino, morpholino, thiomorpholino, piperazino, 2-thieno, 3-thieno, and an N-substituted

derivative of said heterocyclic rings, said N-substituted derivative being substituted with H, C₁₋₈ straight or branched alkyl, benzyl, benzhydryl, phenyl and/or substituted phenyl (substituted with NO₂, halogen, C₁₋₈ straight or branched chain alkyl, C₁₋₈ alkoxy and/or trifluoromethyl);

- (c) R₇ is selected from the group consisting of H, amino, alkyl, aryl, trifluoromethyl, alkoxymethyl, 2-thieno and 3-thieno;
- (d) R₈ is connected to the bis-sulfone ring via a single or double bond, as applicable, and is selected from the group consisting of H, alkylhydroxy, alkenyl, amino, phenyl, benzyl, C₁₋₈ straight or branched alkyl, trifluoromethyl, alkoxymethyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, substituted benzyl, formyl, acetyl, t-butyloxy carbonyl, propionyl, substituted alkyl and R'''CH₂C=O, wherein (i) said substituted benzyl is substituted with halogen, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₈ straight and/or branched alkyl or C₁₋₈ alkoxy, (ii) said substituted alkyl is substituted with amino, dialkyl amino, C₁₋₈ alkoxy, hydroxy and/or halogen, and (iii) R''' is amino, dialkyl amino, C₁₋₈ alkoxy, hydroxy or halogen; and
- (e) m, n, and their sum are each an integer from 0 to 4; and wherein Formula II is as follows:



Formula II

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

- (a) R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, halogen, cyano, NO_2 , alkyl, C_{1-8} alkoxy, C_{1-8} alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-4} carboalkoxy, C_{1-8} alkylthio, difluoromethoxy, difluoromethylthio, trifluoromethyl, and oxadiazole (formed by R_1 and R_2);
- (b) R_7 is selected from the group consisting of H, amino, alkyl, aryl, trifluoromethyl, alkoxymethyl, 2-thieno and 3-thieno;
- (c) R_8 is connected to the bis-sulfone ring via a single or double bond and is selected from the group consisting of H, alkylhydroxy, alkenyl, amino, phenyl, benzyl, C_{1-8} straight or branched alkyl, trifluoromethyl, alkoxymethyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, substituted benzyl, formyl, acetyl, t-butyloxy carbonyl, propionyl, substituted alkyl and $\text{R}'''\text{CH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$, wherein (i) said substituted benzyl is substituted with halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-8} straight and/or branched alkyl or C_{1-8} alkoxy, (ii) said substituted alkyl is substituted with amino, dialkyl amino, C_{1-8} alkoxy, hydroxy and/or halogen, and (iii) R''' is amino, dialkyl amino, C_{1-8} alkoxy, hydroxy or halogen;
- (d) R_9 is selected from -alkyl-OH, alkylamine, lactone, cyclic carbonate, alkyl-substituted cyclic carbonate, aryl-substituted cyclic carbonate, -aryl-C(O)OR', -alkyl-aryl-C(O)OR', -alkyl-OC(O)R', -alkyl-C(O)R', -alkyl-C(O)OR', -alkyl-N(R'')C(O)R', and -alkyl-N(R'')C(O)OR', wherein

R' and R'' are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, amino, alkyl, aryl, aryl-fused cycloalkyl, and heterocyclyl, the amino, alkyl, aryl, aryl-fused cycloalkyl, and heterocyclyl being optionally substituted with halogen, cyano, NO_2 , lactone, amino, alkylamino, aryl-substituted alkylamino, amide, carbamate, carbamoyl,

cyclic carbonate, alkyl, halogen-substituted alkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, heterocyclyl and/or aryl (the aryl being optionally substituted with OH, halogen, cyano, NO₂, alkyl, amino, dimethylamino, alkoxy, alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₄ carboalkoxy, alkylthio and/or trifluoromethyl);

(e) m, n, and their sum are each an integer from 0 to 4; and

(f) p is an integer from 0 to 4.